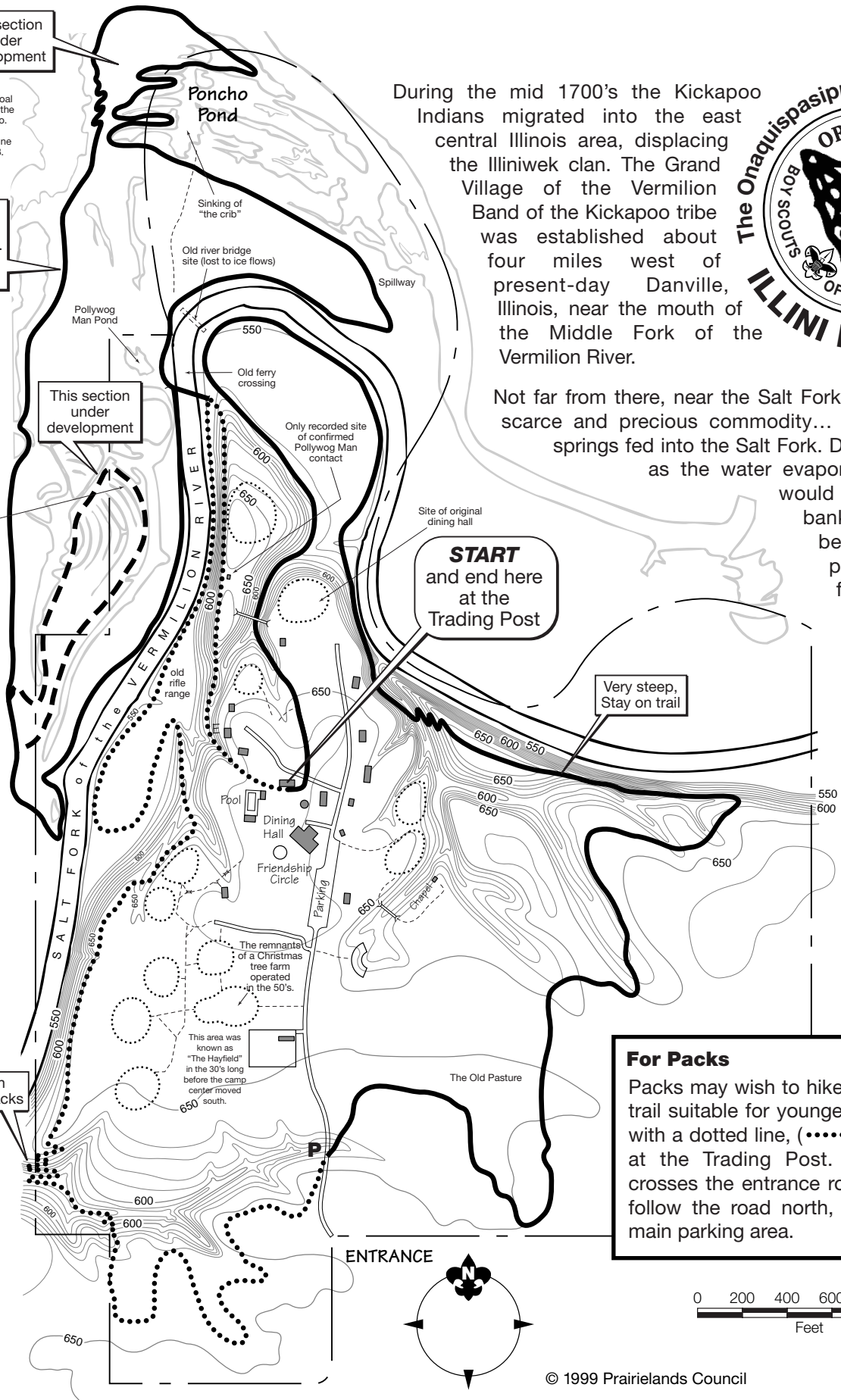


THE ONAQUISPASIPPI TRAIL

The Consolidated Coal Co. of St. Louis and the Salt Fork Mining Co. operated the Missionfield strip mine from 1885 to 1908.

This section is on Pollywog Assoc. property. Be quiet and courteous.

A steam powered dredge would take months to complete the initial circular cut around this 30 acre area. It removed up to 35 feet of overburden to get to 6 feet of coal.



During the mid 1700's the Kickapoo Indians migrated into the east central Illinois area, displacing the Illiniwek clan. The Grand Village of the Vermilion Band of the Kickapoo tribe was established about four miles west of present-day Danville, Illinois, near the mouth of the Middle Fork of the Vermilion River.

Not far from there, near the Salt Fork they harvested a scarce and precious commodity... salt. Natural salt springs fed into the Salt Fork. During dry months, as the water evaporated, salt crusts would form along the banks. These would be collected for personal use and for trading.

The Kickapoo named the salt-bearing creeks Onaquispasippi.



START
and end here
at the
Trading Post

Very steep.
Stay on trail

Stay on
switch backs

This section
under
development

This section
is on Pollywog
Assoc. property.
Be quiet and
courteous.

This section
under
development

For Packs

Packs may wish to hike a section of the trail suitable for younger hikers. Marked with a dotted line, (.....) it starts at the Trading Post. When the trail crosses the entrance road at point "P", follow the road north, returning to the main parking area.

Rev. 4-15-99

